

components sealingly engage with one aperture. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite that a single extension is associated with a corresponding aperture. Moreover, claims 2, 4, 11 and 27 were rejected for lacking the recitation of structural nexus or structure to perform the recited functions. In view of the same, each of these claims has been amended to recite the nexus or structure believed to be required by the Examiner. Additionally, claim 5 has been amended to recite as required by the Examiner, structure to further define the subject matter recited in claim 1. Also, claim 6 has been canceled. Finally, claims 7 and 14 have been amended to provide the necessary antecedent basis identified as lacking in those claims by the Examiner.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-6 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Wisselink (U.S. 5,984,955). Additionally, claims 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wisselink as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Piplani et al. (U.S. 5,489,295). Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite at least one extension which includes a midsection and a support structure attached to the midsection. It is believed that Wisselink neither teaches nor contemplates such subject matter but rather merely teaches anchoring devices for accomplishing desired anchoring of primary and branch grafts. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom define patentable subject matter.

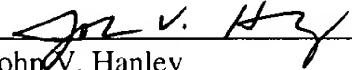
CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to respond to each and every rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
John V. Hanley
Registration No. 38,171

JVH/kst
Enclosure
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
11252.1

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter amended independent claim 1, dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14, 16 and 27 and substitute the amended claims for the pending claims with the same numbers.

1. (Amended) A system for treating vasculature, comprising:
a main component[s] having at least four apertures; and
[at least two]a plurality of extension components each of which including a portion configured to sealingly engage with [one of the four apertures]a corresponding aperture, at least one of the plurality of extension components including a first end portion, a second end portion and a midsection portion and a support structure attached to the midsection portion.

2. (Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a main delivery catheter, the main catheter being sized to releasably receive and [configured to] deliver the main component[s] within vasculature.

4. (Amended) The system of claim 3, the delivery catheter further comprising releasing structure to position at least one of the extension components adjacent the main component and into [wherein the delivery catheter is configured to accomplish the] sealing engagement [of at least one of the extension components] with the main component in situ.

5. (Amended) The system of claim 1, the main component further comprising a profile that is sized to be positionable in the first vessel portion, wherein the system is configured to treat vasculature characterized by having a first vessel being proximately located and in fluid

communication with at least four separate vessel portions, [the main component positionable in the first vessel portion] and each of the extension components extending from the main component to one of the four separate vessel portions.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 1, the main component further comprising a superior end and an anchoring device attached to [a]the superior end [thereof].

11. (Amended) The system of claim 1, the extension components further comprising a generally cylindrical support structure.

14. (Amended) The system of claim 11, the extension components further comprising an inside, wherein the support structure is attached to [an]the inside of the extension components.

16. (Amended) The system of claim 1, the main components further comprising a plurality of tubular portions extending therefrom, each of the tubular portions terminating with one of the at least four apertures and being attachable to one of the plurality of extension components.

27. (Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of guidewires, each of the guidewires configured to be routed through an interior of the main component and out one of the at least four apertures to thereby provide a path for connecting the plurality of extension components to the main component.